

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That 15,000 tons of rice was sent as a loan. We have also promised to supply 50,000 maunds of paddy for seed purposes.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Did they give any indication as to by what time they would return it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is expected to be returned as soon as their new crop comes. We expect that it will be returned before November.

Shri Gidwani: Are Government aware that Pakistan has been exporting rice to other countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Government have made gifts and loans of the order of 50,000 and 60,000 maunds of rice. In view of the fact the rice shortage is nearly one million tons in this country, may I know how far it is in conformity with the policy of Government to reduce the price of rice, that they should make gifts and loans of this order?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not 50,000 or 60,000 tons.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Maunds.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: 50,000 maunds of paddy have been promised for seed purposes, and 15,000 tons of rice were given as loan. As everybody knows, Pakistan was in a very bad condition, and they wanted this badly. By way of help to us, they have given us a loan of 15,000 tons of wheat. The two transactions are not however to be cancelled against each other.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Grand Trunk Express

1115. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed of the Grand Trunk Express has since been increased between Wardha and Balharshah in view of the fact that this track has been relaid with heavier rails; and

(b) if so, the time thus saved as compared with the previous running time?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) 23 minutes.

Standing Labour Committee

***1121. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer

the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1680 on 2nd May, 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee; and

(b) if so, the views of Government thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the 15th Session of the Standing Labour Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 4]

Appointment of non-departmental operators

1127. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a system of appointing non-departmental telegraphists and telephone operators on daily wages in the P. & T. Department;

(b) if so, reasons for this procedure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a system of appointing linemen operators in the place of regular operators;

(d) if so, the reasons for this procedure; and

(e) their monthly salary?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) To meet sudden short term rise in traffic and shortages in staff caused by heavy absenteeism of the existing staff.

(c) The system of appointing linemen to do the work of Telephone Operators exists in very small exchanges only.

(d) This is a stop gap arrangement to meet shortages in staff caused by heavy absenteeism and to avoid delay in opening small exchanges caused due to want of trained Telephone Operators and due to high operating cost.

(e) Rs. 35-1-50 plus special pay of Rs. 5/- p. m.

Dungarpur-Banswara Telephone Line

***1129. Shri Bheeka Bhai:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1233 on the 20th April, 1956 and state:

(a) the progress since made in the rehabilitation of Dungarpur-Banswara telephone line;

(b) when the work will be completed; and

(c) the time by which Public Call Offices will be installed at Sagwara and Galiakot on the proposed line?